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School of Nursing Newsletter

School of Nursing

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SCHOOL OF NURSING

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JULY 2015

A Thousand Hills

A “sabbatical” allows time for travel and study that is difficult to achieve while fulfilling regular academic responsibilities. Dean Barbara James consulted with Dr. Patricia Jones, Director of Office of Global Nursing at Loma Linda University School of Nursing and Associate Director, Department of Health Ministries, about needs in Adventist nursing programs in Africa. Thus, a trip to East Africa ~ visiting the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) and the University of East Africa, Baraton (UEAB) ~ was planned for the months of January and February 2015.

Rwanda, “land of a thousand hills,” is home to AUCA and more than 3000 students in one of four majors: information technology, business, education, and theology. Prior to the genocide of 1994, 600 nursing students were enrolled and trained at the secondary level. As the country continues to rebuild its infrastructure and educational opportunities, a severe nursing shortage, coupled with the superior reputation of AUCA, prompted the Rwandan government to request that AUCA begin a nursing program in 2015 and medical program in 2016. These goals, while lofty, provide an opportunity to share high-quality Adventist education and train healthcare workers for Africa. James was tasked with developing the nursing curriculum. This involved becoming aware of Rwandan regulations for nursing education as well as meeting with nursing leaders in the area hospitals where students would gain clinical experience and leadership. James submitted and presented the curriculum to the International Board of Education, comprised of representatives from the General Conference, East-Central Africa Division, and Rwandan Union, and served on that committee for approval of the nursing program.



Front row: International Board of Education Team
 Back row: AUCA faculty and administrators



Dr. James, left, with Dr. Joyce Owina, Chair UEAB Nursing Dept.

Near Eldoret in Kenya is UEAB, the first private university to receive a charter granted by the Republic of Kenya in 1991. UEAB is a bustling campus offering numerous undergraduate and graduate degrees. James spent time at the main campus, as well as extensions in Eldoret and Nairobi, consulting on some issues common to nursing programs globally, i.e., faculty workloads, accreditation and board of nursing mandates, and distance education.

The final destination, also in Kenya, was Mara West where African Mission Services (AMS), an international, non-governmental organization (NGO), is headquartered. AMS works extensively with the Masai leadership to provide educational opportunities for children and medical services for the rural, underserved communities. James worked side by side with two nurses at one of these clinics, assisting with immunizations, prenatal visits, and meeting the general needs of the clients.



Barbara and David James on safari

No trip to Africa is complete without a safari! Along with her husband, David, Professor James was fortunate to spend a day enjoying Akagara National Park, Rwanda and two days in the Masai Mara, Kenya. They were not disappointed. James recalls, "It was thrilling to see all of the 'Big Five' at good proximity."

Reflecting on her African sabbatical, James summarized the key takeaways: "There are tremendous needs in the world field of Adventist nursing education; dedicated faculty and administrators are doing their utmost to provide a high quality, Christian nursing education; and sharing one's time and talent is richly rewarding. Service may be about 'giving,' but what was gained on those distant hills was life-changing."



Health Clinic staff at AMS in Kenya welcomed Professor James, second from right

New Summer Session

Congratulations
to Southern nursing alumni
Edgar Osorio, '09 and '11,
who received the Obstetric
Student RN Anesthetist of
the Year Award for 2015 from
Florida Hospital Adventist
University of Health
Sciences.



For the first time at Southern, students who are part of an "extra" nursing class started nursing school in a new 12-week summer term that began in May and is the academic equivalent of a full semester. As a result of this entire campus endeavor, the campus is alive with students in the dorms, cafeteria, wellness center, academic departments and student services.

Nationwide, the demand for entry into nursing programs is greater than the number of seats available. This dilemma is seen firsthand at Southern, where each year qualified nursing students must be put on a wait list.

To address this problem, starting in 2015, the university admitted three nursing cohorts instead of only two. Cohorts consist of groups of students who work through the curriculum simultaneously and graduate together with the same academic degree. It is anticipated that this summer option will be available every other year.

As in the past, new students entering the nursing program will stay on an academic track with others who started at the same time. Each cohort will study for two consecutive terms and then take

off one term. So while some students still enjoy a traditional "summer break" in the actual summer, other cohorts will take their three-month break during the fall or winter semesters.

Southern has taken extra care to make sure that nursing cohorts taking classes in the summer can enjoy many of the same co-curricular opportunities that are available to students on campus during the fall and winter terms.

The nursing program at Southern Adventist University leads to a baccalaureate degree in addition to an embedded AS degree completed at the end of the junior year. Senior baccalaureate classes may be completed during two additional full-time semesters on campus, in four continuous part-time semesters online, or within two years in our Consortium Off-campus BS Completion Program.

More information may be obtained by contacting Sylvia Mayer, Director of Nursing Admissions at smayer@southern.edu.

Psychiatric Mental Health MSN Emphasis

Full semester 2015 will see the addition of a fourth nurse practitioner emphasis in the MSN program. The new psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) emphasis has been approved by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). It will be available on campus to students enrolled in the MSN, accelerated RN

to MSN, and post-master's degree programs.

The 51 semester-hour emphasis will include several courses from the School of Education and Psychology masters in counseling program. Interdisciplinary education offers many advantages, such as helping students better understand each other's roles so they can more effectively collaborate for the good of

the patient.

Graduates will be eligible to sit for the PMHNP certification exam. Opportunities for practice abound, as there is a significant nationwide shortage of providers for mental health services. This new emphasis will help meet some of these needs and fulfill the mission of the School of Nursing.

Spring Mission Trips to Nicaragua and Haiti

Has Anybody Told You "I love you" Today?

Nicaraguan church members shared that song, along with hugs for all, as their Sabbath morning welcome for the Southern



students and volunteers at the beginning of their Nicaraguan mission adventure. In March of this year, 17 Southern students, along with faculty Dale Walters, and alumna Kristiana Wrate, RN, traveled to the small village of Francia Sirpi in Nicaragua. Union College volunteers and two physicians, one from Nicaragua and one from El Salvador, were also part of the group.

Six medical clinics were held and Vacation Bible School conducted for the villagers' children. About 300 patients were treated during the week of clinics and an average of 60 children per night attended the VBS program. There were challenges, such as language barriers, running short of medicines, and reviving a blue baby who, thanks to answered prayer, made it alive to the nearest ICU despite inadequate equipment and ambulance delay. God showed His faithfulness and compassion through everyone's talents and ministries ranging from administering medical care to vehicle repair, translating and playing games with the children. The students and volunteers testify that, yes, God showed His love in a wide variety of tangible ways.



In Haiti, according to Tiffany Potter, Southern FNP student, the 14 Southern students and three sponsors had a packed schedule with challenging medical needs, beautiful people and beautiful scenery. One of the first tasks involved separating over 75 different types of medications into appropriate quantities for dispensing from the make-shift pharmacy. One of the hostesses was a natural medicine doctor who willingly shared her knowledge with Tiffany who reports she "soaked it up like a sponge." Nearby open-air churches became healthcare clinics, where each day the team saw over 150 patients for complaints of stomach pains, back pains, headaches, dehydration, skin infections, burns, asthma, and women's health issues. The three Creole French translators stayed very busy! After clinic, afternoon children's services were held with songs, art projects, games and fun for all!



Renee Morales-Castillo caring for a Haitian child.

Nursing Graduates
of 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2005

We would like for our Elvie Swinson Alumni of the Year recipients to be from honor classes. Please nominate one of your classmates who has achieved distinction in a) practice, b) education/certification, c) leadership, or d) service, and send an email with your nomination to bjames@southern.edu or call 423-236-2942. The presentation will be made Sabbath afternoon, October 31, 2:30 p.m. in the nursing building, Florida Hospital Hall.

We look forward to seeing our nursing alumni family October 29-November 1 at Alumni Homecoming Weekend!

President's Award to Conni Cash

Every year at Southern, faculty members are nominated by students and colleagues to receive the President's Award. Conni Cash, School of Nursing office manager, was one of two faculty who received a \$1000 check and recognition during the employee Christmas brunch in December, 2014. She won the Customer Service Excellence Award "for exhibiting genuine concern for others and going the extra mile when dealing with students, staff, and visitors to campus," as reported in that month's *Bietz Bulletin*. Within the school of nursing, Conni Cash is the glue, the foundation, the what-would-we-ever-do-without-her person. If you call the School of Nursing or if you stop by, Conni will answer your questions or pleasantly direct you to the person you need to see.

If you're a current nursing student

who needs to know if vaccination records are up-to-date, or what paperwork has to be completed to sit for boards anywhere from Tennessee to Alaska, Conni is the person to ask. If you're a nursing graduate and you've lost your copy of CPR certification or vaccination records, ask Conni. If you're faculty or staff and need a special label for a mailing project or the copy machine has gone into melt-down mode or you need to know where a



certain faculty member is teaching at the moment, ask Conni. As one faculty member enthusiastically exclaimed, "She runs the school! She is totally aware of every aspect of the nursing program and keeps track of each student's progression from pre-admission, through admission, to graduation and beyond!"

From the amount of work she accomplishes, you'd think Conni lived inside Florida Hospital Hall 24 hours a day. Yet, she also regularly prepares and teaches a Kindergarten Sabbath School class; loves going camping with her husband, Steve; gardens; and even squeezes in some reading for fun.

President's Award, we agree! We personally add our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Conni. This July marks her 18th year anniversary with the School of Nursing. We can't imagine the school without her.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Collegedale SDA Church

Revolutionize your health and the health of your patients

Earn 4 Continuing Education Credits

David DeRose, MD, MPH (Board Certified - Internal Medicine, Preventive Medicine) is known for making complicated subjects practical. He shares his 30-plus years of experience on more than 50 radio stations and a variety of television and Internet outlets, including his website: <http://www.compasshealth.net/>

An additional presentation on hypertension will be open to the community the same evening.

For more information call 423-236-2155 or email llechler@southern.edu

SON Faculty Highlights



We welcome LaShawn Horton who joined us last fall. She taught at Loma Linda University School of Nursing for two years prior to moving to Southern. Born in Pennsylvania, raised in Atlanta, Horton graduated from Southern in 1990 with her AS in nursing; subsequently receiving a BS in nursing from the Medical College of Georgia and an MSN from California State University, Sacramento. Currently she is teaching Child Bearing Family and working on her PhD from Oregon Health and Science University. Horton has been married to her pastor husband, Reginald, for 24 years and has two children attending Collegedale Academy. Her smile can't be missed as she describes her family, "When we are not busy with work and school, we enjoy entertaining, spending time together as a family, talking, traveling, reading, trying new recipes and making each other laugh."



Joelle Wolf, our own nursing faculty, received the 2014-15 Advisor of the Year Award! Each year, after students campuswide are asked to evaluate their advisor, a committee takes the five faculty with the highest scores and votes for one by secret ballot.

Pam Gammenthaler, nursing associates program director, describes Wolf's dedication: "As a nursing advisor, she handles an above-average load of advisees with grace, kindness, compassion and in-depth knowledge to assist students in achieving their nursing degree. Wolf is known for her open door policy and for being a committed student advocate. She definitely deserves this award. She is deeply appreciated by her advisees and her fellow professors!"



It has been a memorable summer for associate nursing professor Christine Moniyung. She successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, titled Academic and Non-academic Variables in A.S. Predictors of NCLEX-RN Success Among Traditional Associate Degree Students at Southern Adventist University, achieving her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the School of Education, Andrews University. (She admitted she celebrated by taking numerous naps on subsequent days.)

During her years of teaching at Southern since 2004, Moniyung has received both the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching and for Commitment to Student Success. She is known to be a challenging teacher who is loved by her students. She will continue teaching Adult III, making sure students are ready for entry into RN practice, and additional courses at the graduate level.

On April 16, 2015 associate professor in the school of nursing, Ronda Christman, PhD, RN, teamed up with her mother, Pauline "Polly" M. Westman, RN, to give a poster presentation at the Southern Gerontological Society annual meeting. The presentation focused on changing older adults' perceptions of adolescents as a result of ASSIST, an intergenerational faith-based program. Christman's mother, Polly, served as a nursing home administrator for 35 years and Christman also worked in long term care for many years. To be able to share their common area of healthcare expertise for the presentation, with the added bonus of thoroughly enjoying their travel time together to and from Williamsburg, VA, was a "unique and treasured experience," Christman said.



Ronda Christman, left, created this poster presentation with her mother, Polly Westman



Fond Farewell

Jeff Gates, DrPH, School of Nursing professor since 2011, has provided an extra dimension to our nursing program with his training in public health. His expertise in research and nutrition, in addition to his high academic standards, have been highly valued during implementation of the lifestyle therapeutics DNP program. We will miss Professor Gates and wish him well in new endeavors.

Looking Ahead...

We are happy to announce that Susan Allen, DNP, RN, FNP, and Beth Scott, PhD, RN, will be full time SON faculty beginning this fall. Allen has most recently been teaching at Pacific Union College. She will be teaching in the master's and doctoral programs. Scott is returning to the SON to teach in the bachelor's and master's programs. Both are experienced nurses and educators who will enhance the learning experiences of students and be a welcome asset to our faculty team!

Southern Students Learn Ebola Facts

Ebola! It's a frightening disease. Although cases were declining earlier this year, as of June 10, 2015, Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) started emerging once again, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Africa may seem far away, but global travel brings the potential threat to "Anyplace," USA.

Safety first - Our nursing students are being prepared to safely protect themselves while helping others. Beginning with the core clinical classes (AS/BS Levels 1-4), nursing students learn the basics of infection control, standard contact and droplet precautions, including use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Students practice the skills of donning and doffing PPE in the Skills Lab before they begin clinical experiences in local facilities. Reinforcement of these skills continues throughout the program.



Bigger picture - Population and Community Health Nursing students (BS level 5) gain a population view by watching a video of the 1990s Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) investigation of the Ebola outbreak in Africa. Basic epidemiological concepts, the epidemiologic triangle, contact tracing, and public health interventions are applied. Students actively engage by writing Public Service Announcements for the impacted communities. They also explore the CDC website for EVD case definition, current outbreak data,

public health recommended/implemented interventions, and updated guidelines for identifying and caring for EVD patients. Finally, students consider the EVD impact on nursing roles in U.S. emergency departments and public health settings.

CDC fieldtrip - Each spring semester, senior BS Nursing students visit the CDC. This past March, a CDC expert presented the latest EVD information and provider safety guidelines. Of course, recommendations for EVD patient care are continually being updated. To find the latest EVD information, explore the CDC links below:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/preparing/hospitals.html>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/healthcare-provider-checklist-for-ebola.pdf>

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